As regard the pension under Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 it is applicable even if the workers lose their jobs before retirement for unforeseen reasons if conditions are satisfied which are: (i) he/she has completed 10 years of eligible service; (ii) he/she has attained the age of 50 years; and (iii) he/she is a member of EPS, 1995. In addition, a member is also eligible to get pension if a member becomes disable or dies (to dependants) while in service and he/she satisfies certain conditions as provided in the scheme.

Stress among class 10th and 12th students

*451. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that as per the crime records, lots of students are committing suicide in the country;

(b) whether Government is aware that cases of suicide are increasing among 10th and 12th standard students in all parts of the country;

(c) if so, what has been done by Government to save these precious young lives;

(d) whether his Ministry has done any study on stress level of students and suggested any means to solve the problem; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (e) Sporadic incidents of suicide committed by students are reported in the media. However, it is difficult to say that these suicides have occurred due to the examination related stress alone, as various socio-economic factors also contribute to stress and anxiety among the children.

As per the figures based on news reports available with CBSE on suicides of students in schools affiliated to CBSE 17 cases were reported during 2008 and 11 during 2009.

The Government recognizes the need to devise measures to reduce fear of examination among students. The National Curriculum Framework (NCF), 2005 recommends measures like reduction of curriculum load, emphasis on comprehension and application of knowledge, focus on continuous and comprehensive evaluation, emphasis on testing of competencies rather than rote memory, making examinations more flexible, provision of guidance and counseling in schools, and making learning child-centric.

CBSE has taken the following measures to reduce the examination related stress among students:—

- Continuous and comprehensive evaluation at the school level with proper weightage to internal school based assessment;
- Restructuring of the examination system to test more on conceptual knowledge and understanding rather than rote memory;

- Provision of 15 minutes of additional time in Class X and XII examinations to enable students to read question papers thoroughly;
- Making available sample question papers;
- Designing question papers so that all the questions can be answered in 2½ hours even though the total period of examination is 3 hours;
- Shift from content based testing to problem solving and competency based testing;
- Higher weightage to practicals;
- Introduction of Mathematics labs to improve conceptual understanding;
- Providing counseling services to both students and parents through telephone, and also online;
- Allowing students to appear in compartmental examination immediately after declaration of the result of the main examination. Five chance are given in two subjects in class X and one subject in class XII.
- Setting up of examination help-line.

The Ministry has not conducted any specific study on the stress level of students. However, the National Curriculum Framework, 2005 suggests several measures to reduce stress level among students.

Spending on social security

*452. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government spends Rs. 139 per person per month on social security;

(b) if so, whether Government intends to increase this to a reasonable level for real social security; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) It is not possible to accurately ascertain social security expenditure per person as it may have different components under Central and State Governments and in accordance with the purpose being served. Moreover, people belonging to different sections of society have different levels of need for social security. Hence, all of them cannot be clubbed together. However, as per the data on expenditures of Centre and States combined on social services available from Reserve Bank of India, total combined expenditure of Central and State Governments on Social services in 2008-09 (BE) was Rs. 257 per month per person roughly. Social services include, education; sports; art and culture; medical and public health; family welfare; water supply and sanitation; housing; urban development; welfare of SCs, STs and OBCs; labour and labour welfare; social security and welfare; nutrition, relief on account of natural calamities etc.